

NEWS RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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At the request of local officials, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has issued a temporary stay on the issuance of new surface water appropriations in the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. The stay is effective from Sept. 15, 2006, to Jan. 1, 2008.

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District is concerned that additional development of water uses in the district will in the near future cause the district to be fully appropriated. To provide time for additional studies on how additional uses in the district may affect stream flows, on March 1, 2006, the district placed a temporary stay on the drilling of new wells throughout the district. This action clearly demonstrates that the Lower Loup Natural Resources District is trying to be proactive in ensuring that water supplies in the district will continue to be available for use by future generations.

Under a provision of state law passed last year, if a natural resources district has placed stays on the construction of new wells, the district can request that the Department of Natural Resources place a stay on the issuance of new surface water appropriations. The Department has agreed with the content of the request and determined that it was in the public interest to place stays on the issuance of new surface water permits.